

In the process of cleaning the several ponds all the reeds were removed and in consequence the Gallinules left for more suitable haunts.

Nests are usually built amongst clumps of reeds growing in water and sometimes on land in coarse grass. The young in down has been described and figured in *A Manual of the Birds of Australia*, Mathews and Iredale, 1921, p. 209, pl. 9, fig. 1. The description therein is of a bird not more than a few days old and may have been taken from a spirit specimen as the colours of the soft parts do not agree with a bird, at most a day old, handled by me on November 12, 1933—locality, Curl Curl Swamp, near Sydney. At death the colours of the soft parts fade, as was the case with my specimen. The particulars which follow were noted from the living bird:

Downal plumage, velvety-black above, dull-black below; grey hair-like appendages (sheaths of the down) attached to the down of the nape, sides of face, throat, neck, back and wings; skin behind frontal-plate sparsely covered with black hair-like feathers, similar feathers above the eyes; frontal-plate and skin surrounding the eyes of a bluish-pink tinge (almost a heliotrope); legs and toes dull flesh-pink; claws dark grey; eyes blue-black, irides brownish; upper and lower mandibles scarlet at bases forming a triangle to the nostrils on the top mandible; tips of mandibles and cutting edges, black; rest of bill bluish-white.—K. A. HINDWOOD, Sydney, N.S.W.

**Satin Bower-bird.**—In *The Emu*, vol. XXXV, p. 181, appeared a note of mine on Satin Bower-birds. Late in July, 1936, a "green" bird appeared around the bower in the garden. It played at the bower alone. On the other side of the garden grew a tall royal blue delphinium. All the flowers were stripped off and strewn about by the bird. Twigs and grass stalks were untidily scattered around also. Then the bird laid two eggs on the path near the bower. I kept the egg that was unbroken for some months.

This year, 1937, only one bird has arrived—a "blue-black" one. It came in July and only stayed about six weeks. The frost had browned our flower garden as never before and there were no cinerarias or delphiniums, and the bird had to be content with violets. Fortunately the grape hyacinths were late and therefore escaped the "Satin-bird." In 1935 the two birds pulled dozens, also pale blue hyacinths. They also took a little scarlet japonica and Chinese lanterns, and the yellow centres of the loquat leaf buds and the bracts of the *Cornus capitata* flowers.—C. C. CURRIE, Lardner, Vic., 30/8/37.